

Table 36-2 Percentage distribution of white 6- to 12-year-olds, by selected family characteristics: 1972-97

Selected family characteristics	1972	1977	1982	1987	1992	1997
Mother's highest education level						
Less than high school diploma	27.8	22.7	16.8	13.1	10.4	7.7
High school diploma or GED	51.9	51.5	51.7	48.7	40.5	36.5
Some college	12.0	14.8	17.8	21.1	28.6	30.5
Bachelor's degree or higher	8.3	11.0	13.7	17.1	20.6	25.3
Father's highest education level						
Less than high school diploma	29.5	23.9	16.7	13.0	9.5	8.8
High school diploma or GED	39.4	38.2	39.6	38.3	36.4	32.0
Some college	12.9	15.7	18.2	21.5	25.4	26.9
Bachelor's degree or higher	18.2	22.2	25.6	27.2	28.7	32.4
Mother's employment status						
Employed	38.4	45.8	53.5	61.2	65.1	69.7
Unemployed, looking for work	2.3	3.2	4.8	3.8	3.8	2.5
Not in labor force	59.3	51.0	41.6	35.1	31.0	27.8
Father's employment status						
Employed	94.2	92.6	90.6	92.0	91.1	93.5
Unemployed, looking for work	3.2	3.6	5.9	4.4	5.2	2.7
Not in labor force	2.6	3.8	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.8
Family type						
Two-parent household	91.0	86.7	83.2	82.0	80.1	78.3
Father as head of household	0.8	1.3	1.8	2.3	3.0	4.0
Mother as head of household	8.2	12.0	15.0	15.7	16.9	17.7
Number of other children in household						
0-1	31.2	48.0	54.0	55.7	57.0	58.3
2-3	48.8	41.3	39.7	39.3	38.2	37.5
4 or more	20.0	10.6	6.3	5.0	4.8	4.2
Age of mother at child's birth						
Under 20	9.5	10.1	11.2	10.0	8.3	6.6
20-24	33.7	35.8	35.3	31.7	30.0	22.5
25-29	27.0	29.1	32.5	35.6	33.4	34.4
30 or older	29.8	25.1	20.9	22.7	28.3	36.5
Median family income (in constant 1997 dollars)	\$44,953	\$45,476	\$42,228	\$44,947	\$46,485	\$48,920

NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) questions used to obtain educational attainment were changed in 1992. See the supplemental note to *Indicator 59* for further discussion. Information on parents' educational attainment, employment status, or age of mother at child's birth is available only for those parents who live in the same household with their child. See the supplemental note to this indicator for further discussion on how the data were calculated. Percentages for employment status were based on the total

population, not just those in the labor force. In 1994, the survey instrument for the Current Population Survey (CPS) was changed and weights were adjusted. See the supplemental note to *Indicator 51* for further discussion. Details may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Surveys.